6: Sauer--32-33 G-5 (1785-94) 1802 Yakut
116, 101, 103, 533

"In crossing a very boggy spot our guide [RCH: a Yakut] sung a melancholy song, which was thus interpreted: 'This is the sad spot that was moistened by the tears of the venerable Tshogonnoi. The worthy old man! most skilful in the chace, and the constant protector of his friend. 'Twas here that, unable to support the fatigues of the journey, his companion, his friend, his last horse, fell. He sat down by the side of his last horse, and vented his anguish in the bitterest of tears: Yes, the bitterest of tears; for he never failed in the duties of a Sochalar (1). He never deserved to weep. [33](The

1. The Yakuti call themselves Socha, and the singular is Sochalar.

third day he was relieved by a traveller and assisted home).' The name of the place is Tshogonnoi Utabyta (the tears of Tshogonnoi)."

40: Burr--152-153 N-2 (no date) 1931 Yakut
116, 101, 103, 174

"They call themselves Sakhá and their language sakhali. Possibly there is here a clue to the origin of the name of the gloomy island of Sakhalin, where it snows in winter and rains in summer, but there there are no Yakuts, only Oroks and Giliats. They call the Russians Nukhá, but I was unable to trace the origin or prime meaning of this word, any more than of the Russian name of Yakut. It is interesting to note that, at least on the middle Lena in the heart of their country, the place-names do not appear capable of interpretation in their language. In this [153] we may see evidence of their comparatively late arrival in these latitudes."

/195 cont./

122 man who had just returned from the Arctic Ocean. Most of the visitors appeared with gifts, of which, however, we accepted only just what we needed, for /196/ appropriate compensation, of course. One of the visitors brought a reindeer and received for it generous payment in cash, which he apparently had not counted on, for he became very embarrassed and finally explained that in this case he wished to exchange the animal given for a larger and fatter one, which, of course we could not oppose.

On the day after our arrival the clergyman from Bulún, Nikolai Ssljepzów, also visited us, and we spent a very pleasant evening with him. He told us a great deal about his travel adventures on the tundra, which he frequently had to cross. The dangers for the intrepid traveler are great -- not the least is the danger of getting lost. Once, just when his traveling companion had gone off, the clergyman was suddenly thrown out of the narte by the dogs, suddenly excited at the sight of a wolf, and he was saved only by the intelligence of the lead-dog who forced the rest of the team to circle the place of the accident closer and closer until he had again found his master and brought the dogs to a standstill near him. He would have been hopelessly lost, without any food, without a compass, hundreds of versts from any settlement. Our guest was also able to give some much desired information about the natural products of the parts of the country traversed by him, and Czekanowsky was particularly pleased by the accounts concerning several sources of petrifactions along the
[136] Lena and the shore of the Arctic Ocean; the clergyman even claimed to have frequently seen ammonites, which we could show him in illustrations. Encouraged by us, he promised henceforth to collect natural products himself, as much as he could, for which we gave him a short course of instruction and asked him to send his eventual collection to the Siberian Section of /197/ the Imperial Geographical Society in Irkutsk. On the next day he sent us a young shark which he himself had caught near Bulún, that is, in the river.

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● [103] Bulún, as I have said several times, is at present the capital of an entire district, or, as one says here, ulússes /ulus/, which, however, is still named after the former capital Shigánsk /Zhigansk/.
[226] [439] On the maps the latter is even designated as a town, but it is now practically abandoned. Bulún, which lies only about 120 versts

174 167 648 /93 cont./
along this river (1). There, however, they in turn encountered

174 167 648 113

1. According to Gmelin (Reise durch Sibirien, von dem Jahr 1733 bis 1743 /Journey Through Siberia from 1733 to 1743/, Göttingen, 1751, Vol. II, pp. 344, 345), even in his time there was among the Yakut an old story about the pressure that they had suffered from the Buryat, which had caused them to move down the Lena Valley. Cf. also Müller, Samml. Russ. Gesch. /Collection on Russian History/, Vol. VI, 1761, p. 147; Fischer, Sibir. Gesch. /Siberian History/, St. Petersb., 1768, Vol. I, pp. 108, 109; Schlözer /Schlötzer/, Allgem. Nord. Gesch. /General History of the Northland/, Halle, 1771, p. 416; Stepanov", Eniseisk. gub. /Yenisei Province/, St. Petersburg, 1835, Part II, p. 45; Ritter, Asien, Vol. II, p. 5; Middendorff, Reise in den äuss. Norden und Osten Sibir. /A Journey in the Extreme North and East of Siberia/, Vol. IV, pp. 1542, 1545. Even the name "Baikal" is said to be of Yakut origin and to mean something like "abundant waters" (cf. Laxmann, Sibirische Briefe /Letters from Siberia/, ed. by Schlözer, Göttingen, 1769, p. 37, note).

• [103]

174 167 648 many Tungusic tribes who put up a stubborn resistance against them and, as it still survived vigorously in the last century in their traditions, only retreated after many bloody battles (2).

2. Gmelin, op. cit., p. 345; Müller,